What is your definition of these terms?

**ENVIRONMENT:**

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

**ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM**

**PUBLIC POLICY**

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**

**ECOLOGICAL CITIZENSHIP**

**MAP**

**Environment-** Settings where humans and other beings live out their lives. For humans, these are places where activity takes place in order to play, recreate, work, go to school, and flourish.

**Environmental Justice-**This refers to the struggles and activism for a healthy living environment and space, assertion of identity and place, cultural expression and practice in regards to land use and/or ownership, and legal rights by groups with less political power and who have a history of facing racism and/or classism.

Often based on distribution: Environmental Justice issues concern environmental goods and bads that are faced by disadvantaged communities. Disadvantages of the past continue to have impacts on present day life.

We will use an expanded definition of justice, beyond the distribution of resources and distribution of environmental goods and bads. This expanded definition comes from Schlosberg (2007). The expanded definition includes 4 pieces: distribution, participatory, recognition, and capabilities and functioning (more on this soon).

Environmental injustice has been a problem for a long time: since ancient Greece, Rome, and Egypt, sewage and municipal waste have been left near “working poor, minorities, and politically disempowered groups” (Schlosberg, 2007, p. 46).

**Origins of the Environmental Justice Movement-**

* Anti-toxic movement- a social movement that rallied against the Love Canal disaster in which working class communities in 1978 were impacted by a housing project built on an industrial chemical (82 compounds) dumpsite that leaked
* Environmental racism movement- the early start of this social movement was in 1992 in Warren County North Carolina where pcb toxic waste was illegally dumped by oil trucks; the oil-contaminated dirt was removed and put in a landfill near a Township that was more than 50% African American and a place that experienced high rates of poverty
* Civil rights movement
* Occupational safety and health movement
* Indigenous land rights movements
* Public health and safety movement
* Solidarity movement (human rights and self-determination for people in the developing world)
* Social/economic justice movement (Schlosberg, 2007, pp. 46)
* Farmworkers’ movement
* Immigrant rights/border movements
* Urban environmental movements

**Examples of Environmental Injustices-**

* “the disproportionate siting of hazardous waste sites, incinerators, landfills, polluting industries and facilities, nuclear facilities, the disproportionate numbers of minority workers in hazardous occupations, such as farm work, dry cleaning, and electronics; the disproportionate consumption of toxic-contaminated fish by minorities and immigrants, as well as the concomitant disproportionate exposure to pollutants and occupational illnesses as a result…” (p. 56)
* Lower rates of environmental clean-up and enforcement of environmental laws
* Lower rates of exposure to environmental goods: parks, playgrounds, green space, clean water and air, and healthy foods
* Exposures in certain occupations that unfairly burden particular groups:
* “Native American nations, for example, are disproportionately and inequitably impacted by every point in the nuclear cycle, from uranium mining, to nuclear testing, to waste disposal. The Navajo Nation: home to uranium mining for much of cold war.” (Schlosberg, 2007, pp. 56-57)
* “Navajo miners [paid] less than the national norm”, “[did not enforce basic safety standards like repairing mine-shaft ventilators, left large contaminated tailing piles and discharged radioactive water into surface and well water supplies]” (pp. 56-57)
* [Wells on reservation contaminated] (p. 57)
* [High lung cancer risk] (p.57)
* “Organ cancer rates for Navajo teens are 17 times the national average” (pp. 56-57)

**Environmental Racism-** This refers to intentional or unintentional discrimination against marginalized people groups (such as African Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans, and Latinas/os) and those with mixed backgrounds with regards to landscapes, resources, green-spaces, as well as being exposed to environmental hazards and degradation at a disproportional rate. A place associated with a marginalized group is more likely to be treated differently than other places by power structures and businesses. This can intersect with a social class dynamic as well.

**Public Policy-** Actions or non-actions governments on many levels (Tribal, Federal, State, County or equivalent, Town or City, Neighborhood) take to regulate or extract, address issues or problems, and send messages about what or who is important and valued.

**NEPA-**A Congressional Act that sets out a process to look at the potential impacts of a government funded development project, a change in a federal law, or an action by a federal agency before implementation.

**Ecological Citizenship-** Ecological citizenship takes into the well-being of the non-human beings and landscapes and treats the non-human entities, their health, and future as important to belonging in the world. This is a newer term that relates to how people (or organizations) behave with regards to how one’s lifestyle and choices ecologically reverberate on oneself, on ecosystems and their inhabitants, and future inhabitants (animals, plants, air, water, and future humans). People begin to self-regulate and think in terms of consequences, morality and the environment, connectedness and see themselves as less separate from the ecology.

**Map-**This course looks at the power in really examining the many dimensions of place beyond its location, but looks into depth at a place for its history, stories, diverse human communities, climate, soil, and biodiversity,  and emotional and social meanings. Such an in-depth look is called a "deep map."  One example of a deep map is the Bdote Memory Map website <http://bdotememorymap.org/>

Reference

 Schlosberg, D. (2007). Defining Environmental Justice: Theories, Movements, and Nature. New York: Oxford                     University Press.